

an attempt so ambitious, the author deprecates. Nevertheless, the need of a book in which the present status of this line of work is considered is felt by many, and by such this brief treatise will be warmly welcomed. Beginning with a concise presentation of the laws of electricity, together with a description of the electrical apparatus necessary for the application of this agent to the treatment of certain diseases peculiar to women, he then considers in detail the applications of the electrical current in gynecology, simplifying the subject so that it may be readily appreciated by the average practitioner who has not made a special study of medical electricity. His statements are moderate in tone and his published cases do not invariably present the best results. It certainly seems to be a fair and clear statement of the subject and while perhaps it should not be adopted as an infallible guide in all cases, the book may be an important help to the work not only of specialists in diseases of women and in electricity, but also in the practice of the large number of general practitioners who desire to use the latter agent in the former class of cases.

**ELECTRICITY AND THE METHODS OF ITS EMPLOYMENT IN REMOVING SUPERFLUOUS HAIR AND OTHER FACIAL BLEMISHES.** By PLYM. S. HAYES, A.M., M.D., late Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology, Womens Medical College; Professor of Gynecology and of Electro-Therapeutics, Chicago Polyclinic, etc., etc., Chicago, W. T. Keener, 1889, 12 mo., pp. 128.

Electrolysis in the removal of superfluous hair is a cosmetic operation which has achieved an unquestioned position in surgery. This little book, like the foregoing, is a presentation of the subject in language unobscured by technicalities and adapted to the purposes of the general practitioner. The author devotes a chapter each to the histology of the skin and hair and to the necessary apparatus. In a third chapter he details fully the operative proceedings. Various other facial blemishes, such as nevi, verruca, etc., receive attention in a fourth chapter, which closes the monograph. The book is in convenient shape for the pocket, and, with its large, clear type, is well adapted for reading in the interstitial leisure moments of pressing practice.

**THE PSYCHIC LIFE OF MICRO ORGANISMS. A STUDY IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.** By ALFRED BINET. Translated from the French by THOMAS McCORMACK, with a preface by the author written especially for the American edition, Chicago; the Open Court Publishing Company, 1889, 12 mo. pp. 120.

M. Alfred Binet, the collaborator of Ribot and Féré, and one of the most eminent representatives of the French school of psychology, presents in this little work some novel and interesting details in a line of study to which but little attention has hitherto been given. His researches and conclusions show, "that psychological phenomena begin among the very lowest classes of beings; they are met with in every form of life from the simplest cell to the most complicated organism." His demonstration that spermatozooids possess the same instincts and vital powers as are found in animals of higher and independent organization, is peculiarly interesting. The work is agreeable reading, and its readers will be apt to form independent opinions as to the conclusions of the author.

PHYSICIANS' INTERPRETER IN FOUR LANGUAGES. Specially arranged for Diagnosis. By M. von V., Philadelphia, F. A. Davis, 1888, 18 mo.

Every medical man has experienced the embarrassment due to a lack of acquaintance with the only tongue spoken by his patient. The only means of satisfactorily avoiding such inconvenience consists in acquiring the patient's language or in using an interpreter. When, however, neither of these are available, a conversation book like this one may be used with great advantage. The phrases in this little book are well chosen and well arranged and cover a very satisfactory field of verbal intercourse. Blank pages are interleaved for the insertion of additional phrases, and the book is of a size and style well adapted for the pocket.

INTERNATIONAL POCKET MEDICAL FORMULARY. By C. SUMNER WITHERSTONE, M.S., M.D., Philadelphia and London, F. A. Davis, 1888, 12 mo., pp. 270.

In a compact form and arranged alphabetically by diseases, the author here presents nearly seventeen hundred prescriptions selected from the works of standard authors. The sources of the compilation are excellent, the work itself has been well done and the publisher has made a very convenient volume of it.

JAMES E. PILCHER.